

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2-8 are now present in the application. Claims 2-5 are independent.

In the Office Action mailed January 2, 2008, claims 2-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. In accord with the Examiner's indication, claims 2-5 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled through this reply. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested, inasmuch as the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 2-8 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Every effort has been made to adopt the suggestions of the Examiner with a view toward early allowance.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tinsler in view of "Engineering Design". With regard to the rejection of claim

1, while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been canceled and objected to claims 2-5 have been written in proper independent form, thereby automatically placing independent claims 2-5 into condition for allowance, along with dependent claims 6-8. Inasmuch as claims 2-5 have been rewritten in independent form, and because "Engineering Design" does not in any way teach or suggest the allowable subject matter of claims 2-5 as now amended, claims 2-8, should now be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of record in the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

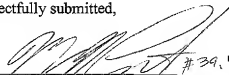
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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